

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CANBER 00378 160043Z

21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /032 W

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R 152317Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7278

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONGEN MELBOURNE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 00378

SINGAPORE PLEASE PASS US CIVAIR DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR--AUSTRALAIN USER CHARGES

1. THE CANBERRA TIMES OF JANUARY 14 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY ITS DEFENSE AND AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, FRANK CRANSTON, IN WHICH CRANSTON STATES THAT AN INTERNAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT(DOT) STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED SHOWING THAT INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES DURING 1974 CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE OF AUSTRALIAN AIRPORT AND AIRWAYS CHARGES.

2. USING AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR HIS ARTICLE THE FACT THAT GENERAL AVIATION MAY FACE GREATLY INCREASED CHARGES, CRANSTON STATES THAT DOT STUDY DIVIDED INDUSTRY INTO FOUR SECTORS--INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC, RURAL AIRLINES, AND COMMUTER AND GENERAL AVIATION. IT THEN APPORTIONED TO EACH SECTOR A SHARE OF CHARGES TO BE COLLECTED UNDER THE ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVE OF 80 PERCENT COST RECOVERY. THE RESULT WAS, ACCORDING TO CRANSTON, A FINDING THAT INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES FLYING TO AND FROM AUSTRALIA "WERE ALREADY PAYING FAR IN EXCESS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT'S RECOVERY FIGURE, ALTHOUGH AS NO INVESTIGATIONS HAD EVER BEFORE BEEN CARRIED OUT, THIS HAD NOT BEEN INDICATED." INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WERE SHOWN TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED BETWEEN 85 AND 95 PERCENT OF
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00378 160043Z

THE COST OF FACILITIES USED DURING 1974, DOMESTIC TRUNK LINES 75 PERCENT, RURAL AIRLINES 25 PERCENT AND

PRIVATE AND COMMUTER AIRCRAFT LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF THEIR
PROPERLY ATTRIBUTABLE COSTS.

3. COMMENT: CRANSTON IS A GENERALLY RELIABLE, WELL
CONNECTED JOURNALIST IN THE DEFENSE AND CIVIL AVIATION
FIELDS AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE SUBSTANTIAL
ACCURACY OF HIS ARTICLE. IN VIEW OF UPCOMING USER CHARGE
TALKS IN MELBOURNE WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO CONFIRM HIS
REPORT THROUGH OFFICIAL SOURCES OR TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE
STUDY, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE. WE
ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT CRANSTON S ACCOUNT OF IT WILL BE
OF INTEREST TO USDEL.
PERCIVAL

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